## BHEW Bulletin

## March 2012

## Marijuana Use in Missouri...



- Marijuana is the most commonly abused illicit drug in the United States. Research clearly shows that marijuana has the potential to cause new problems in daily life or make a person's existing problems worse.<sup>1</sup>
- 5.9% of all Missourians 12 and older reported using marijuana in the past month. This is a number that has remained relatively steady over the past few years and is slightly below the national average.<sup>2</sup> Lifetime use rate of marijuana is not available from any national surveys.
- Although students put off marijuana use longer than other drugs (13.53 average age of first use for marijuana, 12.54 for alcohol and 12.29 for inhalants), 10% of 8<sup>th</sup> graders said they had already tried marijuana at least once. By 12<sup>th</sup> grade almost 2 in 5 students (39%) had smoked marijuana.<sup>3</sup>
- People age 18-25 are most likely to have used marijuana in the last month (16.7%).<sup>2</sup>
- Young males (grade 6-12) are significantly more likely than young females to smoke marijuana.<sup>3</sup>
- African-American students are more likely to have tried marijuana at least once in their life when compared to Caucasians.<sup>3</sup>

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Behavioral Health



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> NIDA - http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/infofacts/marijuana

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> NSDUH - http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k9state/AppB.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Missouri Student Survey, 2010 data